

Scrophulariaceæ, but also of the great cohort of Personales is zygomorphic. In the Campanula the irregularity is limited to the deflection of the style, while in Verbascum it involves both the stamens and petals. I suppose the type of Scrophulariaceæ to have been a flower with a tube long enough to cover the stamens so that insects could not light upon them, and so narrow as to crowd the stamens and style when they changed to the upper wall. The common form is both nototribe and didynamous, but I do not believe that a flower like Verbascum, with rotate corolla and exposed stamens, could develop either of these characters. Delpino regards Mentha as a degraded form of the Labiate type, and I am inclined to think that he is right.

Finally, for a discussion of zygomorphy from the standpoint of natural selection, and for a refutation of Henslow's view that floral organs must have varied simultaneously, see Bot. Gaz. xiii, 146, 203, 224.

R.

Some queer botany.

One runs across some funny botany in doctor books designed for home use! A few days ago I picked up a *vade mecum* of this sort written by an "M. D." who further styles himself "Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (London)," with a lot more of high-sounding degrees. Here is what amused me. "*Podophyllum peltatum*. This plant, of the genus *Mandragora* [nothing like being scientific] has been supposed to be the same as that of which we read in the Scriptures as the mandrake. Its fruit, which is round and yellow, like a small orange, is very fragrant and luscious [mawkish, eaten by pigs and boys, *fide* A. Gr.] and is eaten in the East [wonder if that means "down east"] by women desirous of perfect health. The tuberous (?) root is the officinal portion." And this balderdash in a "sixth edition, thirty-third thousand"!

M. S. B.

Persian lilac on Weigela.

Last summer John Thorburn, LL. D., while visiting Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, discovered close to a house a bush of Japanese Weigela rosea on which there was a branch of Persian lilac carrying fine trusses of flowers. The specimens taken are now in our herbarium, and are undoubtedly as mentioned above. The lilac bushes grew at the back of the house and none where the Weigela grew. As Dr. Thorburn is one of our officers and a reliable gentleman, I mention the circumstance as being noteworthy and solely on his authority.

JOHN MACOUN.

Ottawa, Canada.

Numbers of the Gazette Wanted.

The series of numbers making a nearly complete set of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE, which the editors have generously presented to the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Holl, Mass., is such a valuable acquisition to our library, and is to benefit such a large number of persons that we are very desirous to fill out the set. Are there not among your readers some who can furnish to the laboratory as gifts or for purchase the lacking numbers? We require still: Vol. III, No. 10; Vol. VI, No. 9; Vol. VII, Nos. 8, 9, 11; Vol. VIII, No. 5; Vol. IX, Nos. 10, 11; Vol. X, Nos. 7, 8, 11, 12; Vol. XI, No. 1.

Boston.

CHARLES S. MINOT.